



WINSFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1942.

To the Chairman and Members of the Winsford Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of placing before you my fourth Annual Report, being a report on the Health of your Town for the year ended 31st December, 1942. The Ministry of Health has asked that this report should be confined to essential matters affecting the Public Health of the Town during the year 1942.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	7,094 acres.
Population - Registrar-General's latest estimate of population.. ..	11,230.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1942)	3,337.
Rateable value	£48,228.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£185.

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	(Legitimate	205	103	102)	Birth rate per 1,000 of
	(Illegitimate	6	5	1)	the estimated resident
					population .. 18.78.
Stillbirths	(Legitimate	4	2	2)	Rate per 1,000 total
	(Illegitimate	-)	(live and still)
					births 18.60.
Deaths		152	62	70	Death rate per 1,000 of
					the estimated resident
					population .. 13.53.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):-

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis	-	-
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	-	-
Total	-	-

Death rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	37.91.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	34.14.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	166.66.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	17.
" " Measles (all ages)	-
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	-
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1.

CAUSES OF DEATHS - 1942
(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables).

	M.	F.	Total.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid	-	-	-
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
5. Diphtheria	2	1	3
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4	-	4
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	-	1
8. Syphilitic Diseases	-	-	-
9. Influenza	-	-	-
10. Measles	-	-	-
11. Ac:polio-myel: & polio-enceph:	-	-	-
12. Ac: inf: enceph:	-	-	-
13. Cancer of b:cav: & oesoph: (M) uterus (F)	2	1	3
14. Cancer of stomach or duodenum	2	-	2
15. Cancer of Breast	-	1	1
16. Cancer of all other sites	4	7	11
17. Diabetes	1	2	3
18. Intra-cran: vasc: lesions	9	15	24
19. Heart Diseases	31	19	50
20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1	1	2
21. Bronchitis	-	2	2
22. Pneumonia	2	3	5
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	-	1	1
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	-	-	-
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	-	1	1
26. Appendicitis	-	-	-
27. Other Digestive Diseases	-	2	2
28. Nephritis	2	2	4
29. Puerperal & post-abortion: Sepsis	-	-	-
30. Other maternal causes	-	-	-
31. Premature Birth	1	1	2
32. Congenital Debility & Malformations	-	2	2
33. Suicide	2	-	2
34. Road Traffic Accidents	3	-	3
35. Other violent causes	4	1	5
36. All other causes	11	8	19
Totals	82	70	152

SECTION B. - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The only new provisions to report upon were the setting up of a Cleansing Centre in January 1942 at this Town's official Civil Defence First Aid Post and the provision of transport for the disinfection at the local Isolation Hospital of clothing and bedding in connection with the working of the Scabies Order. During the year this Centre has been very active in dealing with cases of Scabies and Lice infestation in Winsford and has dealt with patients also from adjoining areas, namely, Northwich Rural District, Middlewich Urban District and Congleton Rural District. Details of the Winsford Urban patients who have been dealt with during 1942 under the Scabies Order are given in Section F.

SECTION C. - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water: - The chlorination plant at the Waterworks has been duplicated so that now both supplies can be treated separately. The need for having an adequate chlorination system was shown by a series of bacteriological examinations of the supply taken towards the end of 1942 and early 1943. In December a sample of the supply taken in the Rural District was reported upon satisfactorily. A further

six samples taken two weeks later after a period of extreme wet weather - two before and four after chlorination - from different points in the supply were not wholly satisfactory and the Analyst's report indicated the "ingress of material deprived from soil washings and allied materials". In the same report the Analyst recommended increasing the chlorine dosage to "ensure that the consumer has access to water containing about 0.1 parts per million of chlorine - a quantity which would escape detection by taste, odour, etc." This recommendation was acted upon and a further sample of the supply taken in the Rural District in the early months of the new year was reported upon as a "wholesome and potable water".

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal - The Clive Sewerage Works have given trouble during 1942 through being overworked and complaints of nuisance below the Works have been received. To investigate the validity of these complaints the Council inspected the area. Until the Works are either removed entirely or considerably enlarged very little more can be done. As stated in previous reports, the Works serve a greater number of properties than they were originally designed for.

The Meadow Bank Sewerage Works continue to give an excellent effluent and are in every way satisfactory.

The two original Sewage Disposal Works situated on the banks of the Flashes have suffered severely from subsidence but have been brought up to level and the damage repaired. There is as yet no evidence that these Works affect the quality of the river water one way or the other.

A new drainage system for the area as a whole which would entirely eliminate the four existing Works mentioned above and bring the sewage to one new outfall has been considered by the Council but the difficulties are very considerable owing to widespread subsidence. In view of the Council's sorry experience of the effects of subsidence it is questionable whether the centralisation of sewage or its disposal centrally is entirely sound, at least in the Winsford Urban area.

Closet Accommodation - During the year the number of conversions to the water carriage system was 6 and the number of houses still on the old system in built-up areas is 200.

Public Cleansing - The routine work of refuse collection and disposal and the cleansing of pail closets etc. proceeded satisfactorily throughout the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Statement of Inspections made and Notices Issued.

Nature of Inspections made	Number	Number of Notices Served		Results of services of Notices			
		Statutory	Informal	Notice complied with	Remain- ing in hand	Prosecutions Insti- tuted	Pending
1. Dwelling Houses (General Inspection)	195	7	35	39	3	-	-
2. Gellar Dwellings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. Back-to-Back Houses	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	4	-	1	1	-	-	-
5. Courts, Yards, Passages	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Pail Middens, Earth Closets, Peat Pails, Cesspool Privies	25	-	-	-	-	-	-
7. Cesspools	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
8. House Drainage	85	-	18	18	-	-	-
9. Ditches, Water-courses, etc.	7	-	-	-	-	-	-

Statement of Inspections made and Notices Issued.
(continued)

Nature of Inspections made	Number	Number of Notices Served		Results of services of Notices			
		Statutory	Informal	Notice complicated with	Remain- ing in hand	Prosecutions Insti- tuted	Pending
Brought Forward	334	7	55	58	3	-	-
10. Offensive Accumulations	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
11. Keeping of Animals	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
12. Offensive Trades	64	-	-	-	-	-	-
13. a) Slaughterhouse (Public)	586	-	6	6	-	-	-
(used by the Ministry of Food)							
b) Slaughterhouses (Private)	13	-	-	-	-	-	-
c) Other places where food is produced or sold	128	-	5	5	-	-	-
14. Piggeries	103	-	-	-	-	-	-
15. a) Dairies	130	-	-	-	-	-	-
b) Shippons	132	-	16	10	6	-	-
c) Milk Shops	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
16. a) Factories with mechanical power	16	-	2	2	-	-	-
b) Factories without mechanical power	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
c) Other premises under the Act (including works of building)	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
d) Outworkers premises	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17. Ashbins	32	1	15	16	-	-	-
18. Bakehouses (over-ground)	48	-	-	-	-	-	-
19. Common Lodging Houses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20. Houses let in Lodgings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21. Smoke Observations	7	-	2	2	-	-	-
22. River Boats	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23. Infectious Disease Inquiries & Re-visits	105	-	-	-	-	-	-
24. Miscellaneous	187	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1,907	8	102	100	9	-	-

FACTORIES INSPECTION.

Premises	No. of inspections	No. of written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	48	2	-
Factories without mechanical power	36	-	-
Other premises	8	-	-
Totals	92	2	-

Defects found in Factories:-

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects		Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted	
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	(5)
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary con- veniences (S.7)	2	2	-	-
(Insufficient.				
Unsuitable				
or defective.				
Not separate	2	2	-	-
for sexes.				
Other offences	-	-	-	-
Totals	2	2	-	-

SECTION D. - HOUSING.

The main activities during the year can be summarized as follows:-

1. - Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 146.

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 212.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... Nil.

(3) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 60.

11. - Remedy of defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... 52.

111. - Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

(a) Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936... Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 8.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) By owners 5.

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 3.

(c) Proceedings under section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 .. Nil.

SECTION E. - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply - The routine examination of farms and dairies has been continued during the year.

(b) Meat and Other Foods - The following, based upon a statement made by the Meat Inspector, is a summary of the carcasses inspected and condemned during the year:-

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	852	1,278	1,180	19,653	20,556
Number inspected	852	1,278	1,180	19,653	20,556
<u>All Diseases Except Tuberculosis.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	15	52	11	6	8
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	85	182	21	529	1,028
Percentage of the number inspected, affected with Disease other than Tuberculosis	11.7%	10.48%	2.71%	2.72%	5.03%
<u>Tuberculosis Only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	11	70	6	-	13
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	170	630	-	-	2,284
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	21.24%	54.24%	.5%	-	11.17%

43 carcasses were examined in connection with the operation of the Tuberculosis Order, 1938, the entire carcasses and organs of 19 were condemned; the remainder were passed, less offals, which were surrendered.

The Inspectors under the Diseases of Animals Act notified 2 suspected cases of Anthrax, one of which was confirmed by the veterinary surgeons.

(c) The inspection of premises in which other foods are prepared has been continued during the year.

SECTION F.PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

(1) The rather severe outbreak of virulent Diphtheria which affected the Town towards the end of 1941 extended into the early part of 1942, and of the 36 cases notified during 1942 all were admitted to the Isolation Hospital. There were three deaths amongst these notified cases. None of the three deaths from Diphtheria had received any form of protective treatment. Of the 36 cases of Diphtheria notified, 9 had completed protective treatment under the Council's Scheme. It was again noted whilst the Diphtheria patients were under my care at the Isolation Hospital how much more promptly the immunised children responded to treatment compared to the non-immunised.

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)
during the year 1942.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	5	4	-
Diphtheria	36	36	3
Pneumonia	7	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Measles	43	-	-

Specimens submitted for Bacteriological Examination.

Examined for	Number submitted	Result	
		Positive	Negative
Diphtheria Bacilli	68	9	59
Bacillus typhosus	1	-	1
Haemolytic Streptococci	1	-	1

(2) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The Scheme which was commenced in 1941 jointly with the other three Mid-Cheshire Local Authorities was continued and by the end of the year 1942 the total number of children known to have had protective treatment in the Winsford Urban District was 1,944. The actual percentages of protected children by the end of the year 1942 were:-

Under 5 years 36%
Between 5 - 15 years 90.9%.

All available means have been taken to try to raise the under five percentage by film publicity; by individual letters to parents of infants as and when they reach the age of one; by the distribution of leaflets to employees of the larger factories locally and by repeated visits to the homes by the Health Visitors, etc. but it has proved difficult to get the parents of pre-school children to come forward in the same satisfactory way that the school children have joined in the Scheme.

(3) TUBERCULOSIS.

The table below details the ages of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS.
New Cases and Mortality during 1942.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
5 - 15 "	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
15 - 25 "	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35 "	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
35 - 45 "	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
45 - 55 "	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
55 - 65 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	8	4	3	2	4	-	1	-

Number of patients on register at 31st December, 1941 - 73.

Number of patients on register at 31st December, 1942 - 83.

11 Sputum specimens were examined at the County Council's Laboratory during the year; none were reported on as positive.

(4) SCABIES AND VERMINOUS INFESTATION.

Here again arrangements were made jointly with the other three Mid-Cheshire Local Authorities and of the 5 Cleansing Centres set up in the joint area, 1 was sited in the Winsford Urban District at the John Street First Aid Post. During the course of the year 287 Winsford Urban cases of vermin infestation - 285 cases of Scabies and 2 cases of Pediculosis - were dealt with at the Winsford Cleansing Centre and their personal clothing, bedding, etc. removed for disinfection.

At the time of writing in 1943 it is satisfying to record that all the efforts made to combat the spread of vermin infestation during 1942 in the Winsford Urban District are now showing gratifying results and the incidence of Scabies appears much reduced.

Much of the success of this "anti-vermin" campaign is undoubtedly due to the co-operation I have received from the local Practitioners, the local Factory Doctors and the School Medical Service, and above all to the whole-time Civil Defence First Aid personnel - both male and female - of the four Mid-Cheshire Authorities who at the Cleansing Centres have given such whole-hearted service in this now and at times unpleasant work.

The practice of home disinfection in case of Infectious Disease (including Tuberculosis) and the eradication of vermin was continued during the year. All the Schools were disinfected at least twice during the year and 18 houses were disinfected for the purpose of eradicating vermin.

I would like to say in closing this report how much I appreciate the help I have received from the Members of the Council and Officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

W. S. SLATER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1943.